

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 /082 W

----- 022248

R 021110Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1942

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SY, JO

SUBJ: JORDANIAN VIEW ON IRAQI-SYRIAN CONFLICT

1. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR AURAN TOLD ME THAT KING HUSSEIN'S MESSAGE OF APRIL 26 TO PRESIDENT AL-BAKR WAS EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING OF IRAQI POSITION ON EUPHRATES WATER CONFLICT AND EXPRESSED KING'S WILLINGNESS TO ATTEMPT TO HELP RESOLVE IT.
PRESIDENT

AL-BAKR HAD TOLD AURAN OF HIS GREAT ANGER WITH SYRIA AND EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS PRESIDENT OF ALL IRAQIS AND IS DUTY BOUND TO PROTECT THOSE AFFECTED EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT FROM TIKRIT (AL-BAKR'S HOMETOWN) OR EVEN SUNNIS.

2. AURAN BELIEVES THAT ONE OF UNDERLYING CAUSES OF SYRIAN ACTION, APART FROM UNRELENTING POLITICAL ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE TWO REGIMES, IS THAT SYRIA HAS BEEN RECEIVING IRAQI OIL THROUGH OLD IPC PIPELINE AT WELL UNDER MARKET PRICE. IRAQIS CLAIM THAT SYRIANS HAVE BEEN SELLING THIS OIL AT MARKET PRICES AND THEREBY RECEIVED WINDFALL OF 300 MILLION DOLLARS OVER PAST YEAR. SYRIANS, HE CLAIM, WANTS TO PRESSURE
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IRAQ INTO CONTINUING AND EXPANDING THIS ARRANGEMENTS TO OBTAIN

MORE MONEY FROM IRAQ. AURAN ALSO SUSPECTS SOVIETS OF SUPPORTING SYRIA IN THIS CONFLICT AS MEANS OF SHOWING THEIR DISPLEASURE WITH IRANIAN-IRAQI MARCH 6 ACCORD AND OTHER ACTIONS OF BAGHDAD REGIME THAT HAVE WIDENED DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM.

3. THERE IS WIDESPREAD RUMOR THAT 3 OF 5 IRAQI AF PILOTS DEFECTED TO SYRIA IN FIGHTER A/C ABOUT APRIL 30. SYRIA SUPPOSED TO HAVE RETURNED A/C.

4. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR NACIRI TOLD ME MAY 3 THAT TWO DAYS AGO IRAQI MEDIA HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CEASE ALL PROPAGANDA AGAINST SYRIA. NONE HAS APPEARED SINCE THEN.
LOWRIE

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